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[TEMPO 2435394 2930943Z FRP]

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STATE

ACTION: NONE INFO: FILE, RF.

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OO RUEAIIA
 DE RUEHC #9172 2930924
 ZNY SSSSS ZZH ZZK
 O 200905Z OCT 83 ZFF4
 FM SECSTATE WASHDC
 TO RUEKJCS/ JCS WASHDC/ADM MOREAU NIACT IMMEDIATE 9187
 RUEKJCS/DOD/ISA/FOR SANCHEZ/ NIACT IMMEDIATE
 RUEAIIA/ CIA WASHDC/FOR CLARIDGE/ NIACT IMMEDIATE 1063
 BT
 S E C R E T STATE 299172

NODIS

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM, SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO WHITE HOUSE AND
 SECDEF OCT 20, BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION.
 QUOTE: S E C R E T BRIDGETOWN 08393

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: AEMR, GJ

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION ON
 GRENADA

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT).

2. AMERICAN LIVES ARE AT STAKE IN THE TURMOIL IN
 GRENADA -- 500 TO 1000 OF THEM. THEIR SAFETY IS
 PARAMOUNT. THEY COULD BE TAKEN HOSTAGE, AS IN IRAN;
 THEY COULD GET CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE. I KNOW THERE
 ARE FORMIDABLE DIFFICULTIES, BUT WHATEVER WE HAVE TO
 DO TO ASSURE THE SAFETY OF AMERICAN CITIZENS, I URGE
 THAT WE SET IT IN MOTION NOW. IN THE PROCESS WE COULD
 WELL RID THE HEMISPHERE OF AN OBNOXIOUS UNWANTED REGIME.

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3. I HAVE NO RECOMMENDATION AS TO TIMING AT THE MOMENT. BETWEEN NOW AND TOMORROW THERE MAY BE NEW DEVELOPMENTS. THE GOVERNMENT OF BARBADOS HAS ALREADY ANNOUNCED ITS REVULSION AT WHAT HAS HAPPENED. THE PRIME MINISTER OF ST. LUCIA TELLS ME THAT A MEETING OF REGIONAL LEADERS IS SET FOR TOMORROW, WHETHER THIS MIGHT LEAD TO CARICOM ACTION OR NOT IS UNCLEAR, BUT SANCTIONS ARE ON THE AGENDA. I DO NOT BELIEVE THE REGION CAN CARRY THE BURDEN ALONE. HELP FROM US WILL BE NECESSARY. HOW AND IN WHAT FORM TO PROVIDE IT WILL SOON BECOME OBVIOUS. A MILITARY SOLUTION SEEMS TO ME TO BE A CONCEIVABLE POSSIBILITY. WE SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR IT.

4. THE DEMOCRATIC LEADERS OF THE REGION -- ADAMS OF BARBADOS, CHARLES OF DOMINICA, CATO OF ST. VINCENT, BIRD OF ANTIGUA, COMPTON OF ST. LUCIA -- ALL AGREE WHOLEHEARTEDLY THAT ACTION TO PREVENT FURTHER BLOODSHED IN GRENADA AND TO RESTORE THAT ISLAND TO DEMOCRACY AND INDEPENDENCE MUST BE TAKEN, AND IN MY JUDGMENT THEIR PEOPLE ARE LIKE-MINDED. THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN NATIONS WILL SUPPORT US MATERIALLY AND MORALLY IN WHATEVER WE RESOLVE TO DO, NOW AND AFTER THE FACT. IN THE LAST HOUR I HAVE SPOKEN PERSONALLY WITH ALL THE PRIME MINISTERS. THEY ARE UNANIMOUSLY HORRIFIED AND OUTRAGED AT THE BARBARITY (TOM ADAMS' WORD) OF THOSE WHO HAVE SEIZED GRENADA. THEY ARE VERY WORRIED ABOUT WHAT THIS MEANS FOR THEIR OWN ISLAND MINI-STATES. EXCEPT FOR BARBADOS, THEY ARE NEARLY DEFENSELESS. TOM ADAMS HAS PERSONALLY TOLD ME THAT HE STANDS READY TO ASSIST IN ANY EFFORT, INCLUDING THE MILITARY USE OF THE BARBADOS DEFENSE FORCE, THE REGION'S ONLY TRAINED MILITARY UNIT.

5. I AM NOT COMPETENT TO ASSESS THE MILITARY SITUATION. I CAN ONLY OFFER MY STRONG CONVICTION THAT IF WE MUST, AND WE MAY HAVE TO, WE SHOULD: (1) EVACUATE AMERICAN CITIZENS, BY FORCE IF NECESSARY AND (2) DEPOSE THE THUGS WHO HAVE TAKEN OVER, AND (3) RESTORE GRENADA AS A FREE SOCIETY.

6. IF IT COMES TO IT, IN MY JUDGEMENT, SUCH AN ACTION WOULD MEET OVERWHELMING APPROVAL IN THE COMMONWEALTH

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CARIBBEAN. I BELIEVE THAT SENTIMENT IN EASTERN CARIBBEAN FOR ACTION IS NOW SO STRONG THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO ELICIT A PUBLIC INVITATION FROM THE REGION'S COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP TO THE U.S. TO ACT FOR THE SAKE OF HUMAN DECENCY AND HUMAN RIGHTS. (ASSUME DEPARTMENT IS CONSULTING ALLIES AND OTHERS, AS APPROPRIATE.) I DID NOT DISCUSS THE PROSPECT WITH THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT, BUT I BELIEVE THAT THE ORGANIZATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES MIGHT WELL AGREE TO BE THE MULTI-NATIONAL UMBRELLA UNDER WHOSE AEGIS A PEACEKEEPING INTERVENTION MIGHT BE MOUNTED. FRIENDLY NON-MEMBERS, SUCH AS BARBADOS AND JAMAICA, WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY JOIN IN.

BISH UNQUOTE SHULTZ

END OF MESSAGE

SECRET